

VICEROY ENTERTAINS

Lord and Lady Aberdeen Give Grand Easter Ball.

GAY SCENE AT DUBLIN CASTLE

Blue Blood of Ireland Attends Fete on Eve of Lenten Season—Number of Invited Guests Limited to 600 and Crush of Former Occasions at First Courts Was Avoided.

Correspondence of The Washington Herald.
Dublin, Feb. 23.—What was one of the most brilliant pre-Easter balls and receptions was given at the castle Tuesday evening by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, viceroy and vicereine of Ireland. The affair was a most delightful one, and as the number was limited to 600, there was no crush, such as hitherto has always been experienced at the first court of the season. The new regulations are modeled on the lines of their majesties' courts at Buckingham palace, with the result that there is infinitely greater comfort both for the viceroy and vicereine and for all their guests. The ladies and gentlemen, as they arrived, were conducted to the long picture gallery, and then in turn were conducted to St. Patrick's Hall, where their excellencies were seated on a raised dais, surrounded by their household and members of the house party.

The order of presentation was certainly greater than in the more limited space of the throne room, where the drawing-rooms were previously held; but once the ordeal was over, the guests were allowed to remain in the room, seats being provided for all, and they could then comfortably look on while other ladies passed before their excellencies and made their courtesies.

The house party at the castle included the secretary of state for Scotland and Lady Marjorie Sinclair, Lord Aberdeen's only daughter; Lord and Lady Kenmare, and the Ladies Dorothy and Cecily Browne, Lord and Lady Pirrie, Lady Violet Brabazon, Lady Louisa Langley, Mr. Birrell, the new chief secretary, and Mrs. Birrell; the Hon. Grace Ridley, and Lord Shaftesbury, while Lord and Lady Haddo were included in the "staff."

There was a huge attendance at the levee on Tuesday, and just before the function began Mr. Birrell was sworn in at a special meeting of the privy council. Although the weather on Tuesday was cold and wintry, a number of people came to watch the arrivals, and some of the ladies of the house party looked on from the balcony. The commander of the forces, Lord Grenfell, accompanied the viceroy to the throne room, and the lord chancellor and the Archbishop of Dublin were also in evidence.

There were no presentations of importance. Lord Shaftesbury was presented by Lord Hawkebury on his appointment as lord mayor of Belfast, and the new master of the rolls was presented by the lord chancellor. Prince Louis of Orleans was included in the viceregal party.



Countess of Portarlington.



Lady Dorothy Browne



Miss McCormick



Countess of Aberdeen

KING TIRES OF RULING

Oscar of Sweden May Abdicate in Favor of Son.

HAS BEEN IN FAILING HEALTH

Report That Monarch Intends to Retire into Quietude of Private Life. Circulated Recently, Now Revived and Given General Credence—The Crown Prince Now Acts as Regent.

Stockholm, Feb. 23.—The report that King Oscar intends to abdicate the throne and retire into private life, which was circulated here recently and denied, is now revived and given general credence. King Oscar has been in failing health for some time, and the action of Norway in severing her political relations with Sweden was a blow from which the good and popular monarch has never fully recovered.

The King was much devoted to the Norwegians, and their repudiation of his sovereignty was keenly felt, but never resented. As is generally known, the King is one of the most enlightened monarchs in Europe, and is almost continually devoted to study. He apparently

DRIVES LEOPARD OFF

British Officer in India Saves Life of His Wife.

WOMAN ATTACKED BY ANIMAL

Lieut. Col. Hutchinson, Returning from Shooting Trip Near Dehra Dun, Sees Beast Leap Out of the Thicket—Dares Not Fire, So He Grapples with the Wild Beast.

Lucknow, Feb. 23.—A few days ago Lieut. Col. Hutchinson, of the Second Gurkhas, had a thrilling fight with a leopard, which attacked his wife while on a shooting trip near Dehra Dun.

They were returning after a day's shooting, and the beaters had gone on some distance ahead. Mrs. Hutchinson was walking about ten yards in front of her husband. She deviated slightly from the path, and surprised a young leopard, which immediately attacked her. Col. Hutchinson instantly raised his rifle to shoot the beast, but dared not fire for fear of wounding his wife.

Then, seeing that the only way to save her life was to drag the leopard off, he dropped his rifle and attacked the beast with his hands.

The leopard first attempted to seize his arm, but missed, and Col. Hutchinson was able to keep it at bay while his wife rose and ran to call the beaters. Meanwhile, the animal sprang again on Col. Hutchinson, and a desperate fight between the man and the beast followed.

Col. Hutchinson eluded its spring with marvelous agility. He made several attempts to regain his rifle, but the leopard was on him before he could pick it up.

Then he thought of his revolver, and was placing his hand on his hip to draw it, when the leopard sprang on him again and seized his right arm. Desperate as the position was, Col. Hutchinson did not give in, and although he was suffering terrible agonies, he grappled with the beast. They rolled over several times, the leopard still clinging to his arm.

At last Col. Hutchinson freed his arm and succeeded in getting his revolver. Then he shot the leopard in the eye. The animal let go its hold, but the shot had only blinded it.

Before it could spring on him again Col. Hutchinson had gained possession of rifle, and succeeded in killing the beast just as the first of the beaters came back.

Col. Hutchinson was by this time so exhausted from loss of blood and the struggle that he was in a state of collapse. He was carried back to his bungalow, and his arm, which was terribly lacerated from the shoulder to the wrist, was attended to.

He is now progressing favorably.

GIRL CLIMBS CHURCH SPIRE.

Female Steeplejack Establishes New Record in Face of Gale.

London, Feb. 23.—A girl seventeen years old has accomplished the extraordinary feat of ascending a church spire 200 feet high in the teeth of a gale of wind.

Mr. Larkins, the steeplejack, of Bow, had undertaken to ascend the spire of All Saints', Hereford, the highest in the West of England, on Wednesday. Miss Elsie Heins, of West Dean, Whitecross road, Hereford, the daughter of one of the church wardens, volunteered to accompany him.

The ascent was made by means of a steeplejack's cradle. In spite of the force of the wind and of the swaying of the cradle, the girl, Mr. Larkins says, was remarkably cool all through the perilous ascent and descent. Needless to say, the spire had never been ascended before by any except male climbers.

Wednesday was market day, and a great crowd watched in thrilling suspense the ascent of the swaying cradle. Traffic was entirely blocked by the crowd, every member of which stood stock still until the girl had gained the summit, descended again, and reached the ground safe and unharmed.

CUBANS WANT COCKFIGHTS.

Crowd to March to Palace to Plead for National Sport.

Havana, Feb. 23.—Cockfighting is to become the great political issue in Cuba.

It is now announced that a powerful agitation is on foot for the restoration of "the national sport," which was prohibited by a military order made during the last American occupation and enforced by President Palma.

The Liberty party organ, El Rebelde, announces that it is expected that excursion trains will bring from all parts of the island 100,000 people, who will on March 24 march on the palace at Havana and demand that Gov. Magoon rescind the order prohibiting cockfighting.

The organizers' manifesto concludes: "Cubans, long live your national sport! Viva Cuba!"

Statements are published by El Rebelde from citizens declaring they would never have given their sons to war for independence if they had known that cockfighting would be suppressed.

"Long live the cockfight, the most innocent spectacle in the face of the earth!" is a typical outburst on the part of one of the Cuban papers.



Countess of Shaftesbury



Miss Alice Doyle

CREDITORS HOUND PRINCESS

Daughter of Belgium's Wealthy Ruler Deeply in Debt.

Owes \$15,000 to Jeweler in Paris Who, Tired of Waiting, Attaches Debtor's Baggage.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Princess Louise, daughter of the King of the Belgians, is again in difficulties with her creditors. She owes \$15,000 to a Paris jeweler, and has several times promised payment. The jeweler has now sought the intervention of the court, and all the baggage belonging to the princess, which is at present in a Paris hotel, has been officially handed over to the hotel manager, who will be responsible for its safekeeping.

The princess is very much distressed at the incident. She thinks it a pity that she has been brought before the public in this way. "The press," she said, "has been very unkind. The newspapers make the best of every trifling incident, and I am sorry the jeweler has taken this step. I had promised to pay him, and will pay him. I think it is sad that I, the daughter of the richest King in Europe, have but a small income to live upon—an income wholly insufficient to maintain my rank. However, I do not complain, and will endure privation in order to pay every penny I owe. I have a great many creditors, and naturally I cannot pay them all at once. I have been living in one of the hotels in Paris for the last seven years, and this jeweler might by this time have known that he could trust me to pay my debts."

The princess has reduced her suite to four, and is living very modestly in a plainly furnished apartment.

ELOPEMENT AGENT DEAD.

Mme. Bob Walter Turned Motor Car to Novel Use.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Mme. Bob Walter, the proprietress of the celebrated motor-car elopement agency, died yesterday morning at the age of fifty-one.

Before taking up the motor-car elopement business Mme. Walter, whose real name was Battistine Dupre, was a performer on the music hall stage. Her most celebrated performance was the serpentine dances in a cage of African lions.

During the last few years Mme. Walter was responsible for many runaway marriages.

"Love's young dream made a reality at sixty miles an hour is rather novel," she once said, in the course of an interview regarding her business.

"I always arrange my elopements by contract," she added. "Of course, I have a sliding scale of charges, which depend on the distance the eloping couple wish to go, the likelihood of danger—an angry father has shot at 'Cupid's' car before now—and the different details."

"I have been wonderfully lucky. Most of the elopements which I have arranged have ended in happy marriages."



Princess Louise of Belgium.

DOUMA TO DEMAND CONTROL

Prospects for Peace Not as Bright as Before Elections.

Premier Stolypin Threatens Dissolution if the Radicals Attempt to Control Situation.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—It is now possible to get a fairly clear idea of the composition of the new Douma, and it must be said that the prospects of political tranquility in Russia are not bright. The old Douma was dispersed because it persisted in demanding control of the administration instead of confining itself to being a junior branch of a limited legislature.

The new Douma is coming back with a renewed demand for control. The Constitutional Democratic party will be the progressive center, and it cannot and does not want to get away from the issue of a government controlled by the Douma.

After all their manifestoes, mutinies, and murders, the Russian people are back again with their old parliamentary weapon to see if they can reduce the Czar to a constitutional ruler who will take his guidance from the Douma. As a besieging army, which cannot reduce a fort by assault, has to try to starve it out, so the Douma will seek to starve out the government garrison by withholding money supplies.

The large unclassified left has little sympathy with this Kadet policy. They want to make the tribune of the Douma again a revolutionary platform. There are no signs of their being able to produce much public revolt except in the vicinity of Saratov and the middle south, but their ununited denunciations in the Douma will probably be more than the government can endure.

The idea of revolution by an act of Parliament is gaining converts all the time. In the end the government may feel itself compelled to disperse this Douma like the last, abolish Count Witte's electoral law, and substitute a method of election based upon a college of nobility and property-holding classes.

The Emperor has sanctioned Premier Stolypin's proposal to appoint a minister of the interior under the prime minister. The latter is now both premier and minister of the interior. The new minister will be chosen from M. Stolypin's staff, and will reply to interpellations in the Douma in regard to internal affairs. This change is expected to obviate the continuous danger involved in M. Stolypin's personal presence in the Douma, which would be incurred if he would remain minister of the interior.

He authorizes the statement that the coming Douma's existence depends on its cooperation with the government's legislative programme. If it attempts to create itself a government within a government and attempts to raise the question that the ministry meeting the new Douma is the ministry that dissolved the last one, then the Douma will become a revolutionary tribunal, and the nation will pay dearly for the personal ambitions of its politicians.

PRINCE REPENTS GENEROSITY.

Nicholas Believes His Subjects Unfit for Constitution.

Cettinje, Feb. 23.—Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, who last November granted his people a constitution "in order to promote the liberty, independence, and patriotism" of Montenegrins, is now beginning to repent of his generosity, as the people do not understand how to use it.

Scenes in Parliament and cabinet crises are almost an everyday occurrence. Recently Prince Nicholas dismissed a ministry which pretended to have a voice in army appointments. On Parliament suggesting that he should resign, he refused it because it had the people's confidence, the old warrior gave the assembled legislators a sound rating.

They at once withdrew their suggestion, apologized to the prince, and begged him to suit himself.

When it was discovered that there was a dearth of candidates for the cabinet the prince was compelled to settle the difficulty by dividing the principal portfolios equally among his three most faithful friends.

The premier is minister for foreign affairs and public instruction. The other ministers have likewise three portfolios each, and for the moment every one is satisfied.

ACCUSE MILLIONAIRE

Italian Authorities Arrest Camorra Band Leader.

CHARGE MURDER AND THEFT

Neapolitan Police Claim Grand Deputy Ruler of Dreaded Secret Society Issued Death Warrant for Alleged Traitor of Gang Who Informed Gendarmes About Robbery.

Naples, Feb. 23.—Sensational revelations have just been made in Naples by the secret police in connection with the mysterious murder of a well-known Neapolitan couple named Cuocolo, who on June 6 last were found murdered and their property plundered. Two days later one of the known murderers was in turn stabbed to death at Torre del Greco, at the foot of Vesuvius, in a quarrel over the distribution of the booty, but otherwise the crime remained a mystery.

During the last five months numerous carabinieri, in divers disguises, have been living among the criminal clubs in Naples and the neighborhood for the purpose of tracking down the culprits. Two of these carabinieri even stood as godfathers at the baptism of Camorristic offspring, for in Naples the associates of secret societies are for the most part persons of pronounced piety, who contribute generously to the upkeep of the priesthood.

Receivers of Stolen Goods.

Cuocolo and wife are now known to have been the treasurers of the Camorra in their district and their dwelling a storehouse of stolen goods. Cuocolo's claim to half profits on an immense haul of money and jewelry having been disallowed by the other associates, Cuocolo, out of revenge, put the police on their scent. No sooner did the act of treachery become known at the Camorrist headquarters than the supreme tribunal of twenty-four judges, composed of the president and the vice president of each of the twelve districts in Naples, received an urgency summons to assemble in a cavern at San Giovanniello, in the suburbs of Naples. There a sentence of death was unanimously passed on the Cuocolos. Four novice Camorristas were called before the secret court and deputed to execute the vendetta within forty-eight hours.

The perpetration of the bloody deed was afterward celebrated at an official banquet, when the novice assassins were admitted to the solemn profession in the society as a reward of their fidelity.

Many Arrests Made.

Between twenty and thirty arrests were effected last night and to-day, among them persons of fashionable society and the grand deputy ruler of the Naples Camorra, Gennaro de Marinis. The latter arrest caused an inexpressible sensation among the smart set. Marinis is a reputed millionaire and a notorious usurer. Glittering all over with gems and driving a magnificent four-in-hand, he was one of the notable sights of the city, and was addressed by the ladies. Marinis, who was in the habit of boasting that he kept a firm of London tailors exclusively employed in attending his enormous wardrobe, is now charged with having emitted the death warrant against the Cuocolo couple.

PRINCESS UNPOPULAR

King Edward's Niece Fails to Please Roumanians.

FUTURE QUEEN OF COUNTRY

Crown Princess Marie Has Never Quite Captured People, and Though "Carmen Sylva" Has Done Best to Eradicate Feeling, It Still Exists and Is Growing in Intensity.

London, Feb. 23.—In the face of recent advices from the court of Roumania, one has almost to give up hope of the recovery of King Charles, who is suffering from an incurable internal disease which leaves little chance of a prolongation of his prosperous reign. Under these circumstances great regret has been felt at the circulation here of rumors of the unpopularity of the Crown Princess Marie, niece of King Edward and daughter of the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

The princess, who is a beautiful young woman, has never quite captured the Roumanian people, and though the aged Queen, "Carmen Sylva," has done her best to erase the feeling against her, it still exists and is growing in intensity.

The King, who is one of the most popular sovereigns in Europe, resents the absence of Crown Prince Ferdinand at a time when it is felt he should be in at-



PRINCE NICHOLAS OF ROUMANIA.

COMMIT A THOUSAND CRIMES

Band of French Thieves Run to Earth After Five Years.

Victims Robbed and Mutilated in Such Horrible Fashion that Villagers Are Terrorized.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Full particulars regarding the startling exploits of a band of thieves, numbering a hundred members, who terrorized the department of the Nord and certain districts of Belgium for several years, are slowly coming to light. These thieves have committed more than a thousand crimes. They began by operating in hamlets, and, becoming bolder, penetrated into villages. In numerous cases murder accompanied their pillaging. The revelations showed that the thieves committed a crime almost every day for the past five years.

Their plan of operations was to select a house in a remote neighborhood. Having effected an entrance they would gag and bind the inmates and ransack the house from top to bottom. In several instances the occupants were discovered next day mutilated in a barbarous fashion.

Suspicion fell on three men belonging to Hazebrouck, who were known as snugglers. They were closely watched, and evidence was obtained showing that they were connected with a terrible murder committed at Port Violaines in January of last year. The three men, of whom two—Abel and August Pollette—are brothers—were arrested in their beds.

Fifty-five years at Broadmoor. Liverpool, Feb. 23.—An inmate of Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, named Thomas Cathie Wheeler, has just died there at the age of eighty-three. He was charged with the murder of his mother in 1852 and found insane.



King Oscar of Sweden



Crown Prince of Sweden

Sweden's King and Heir Apparent.

feels now that his hobby in this direction can be better availed of, as living in private, than charged with the onerous duties and responsibility of sovereignty.

If King Oscar's abdication does not occur at an earlier date it may take place on June 6, of this year, which is the golden wedding anniversary of the King and Queen.

The abdication will be in favor of the crown prince, who is now acting as regent.

Advices received here from Carlsruhe state that the crown princess of Sweden, who is visiting her parents, the Grand Duke and Duchess of Baden, is seriously ill at that place.

RIDE HORSES INTO BALLROOM.

Hussars Spread Terror Among Large Crowd of Merry Masqueraders.

Budapest, Feb. 23.—Three officers of the Third Honved Hussar Regiment, stationed at Debrezin, rode up the stairs of the Hotel Biza, of that town, last night, and entered a hall on the second floor, where a masquerade ball was in progress.

They careered round the hall three times, shouting hurrahs, and then rode their horses out by the way they had entered.

The city council discussed the incident this morning, and reported it to Col. Zedwitz, who ordered the three horsemen to be placed under arrest.

One of the prisoners recently entered a popular coffee house on horseback and ordered coffee for himself and his horse. When the guests protested, he drew his sword and threatened to cut down any one who stood in his way, declaring at the same time that his horse was as noble an animal as any one present.

KAISER HIS OWN ANCESTOR.

Appears at Ball in Costume of Elector Frederick William.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—The costume ball given by the crown prince and princess at their palace last night was a brilliant affair.

All the members of the imperial family were present in historical dress, the Emperor appearing as his own ancestor, the great Elector Frederick William (1640).

His majesty wore a flowing wig, a broad-brimmed feathered hat, a picturesque dress, and knee boots. The Empress was dressed as a lady of the same period. Over 200 guests were present.

Fire Cure for Lunacy.

Capetown, Feb. 23.—A witch doctor and four natives of Northern Natal are in custody on a charge of murder. They appear to be a native lunatic into a pit containing a fire in an effort to cure him, and the man was killed.

GAY ARCHDUCHESS ELOPES

Another of Austro-Hungary's Royal Family Creates Scandal.

Induced to Return to Her Home After Weeks of Frivolities in Switzerland.

Geneva, Feb. 23.—A romantic story of another elopement by a member of the Austrian royal family came to light to-day.

It appears that a young and handsome archduchess disappeared mysteriously from the court at the end of last November. No trace of her movements could be found until December 2, when she arrived at the Hotel Bellevue here, accompanied by a distinguished looking man, who signed his name in the register as Ferdinand de Szoyti. The archduchess, who wore costly furs, refused to sign the register.

For three weeks the couple lived in a most extravagant manner. They went to masked balls at the Kursaal and indulged in every other form of amusement.

During the fourth week a lawyer named Stanz, of Vienna, arrived at the hotel, and had a stormy interview with the couple. He endeavored to persuade the woman to return home, but she refused, and the lawyer went back to Vienna.

Shortly afterward Dr. Joseph Fleischmann, also of Vienna, went to the hotel, and when he had been there ten days he succeeded in persuading the archduchess to return with him to Vienna.

Szoyti bade her farewell and went to Montreux, leaving the greater portion of their luggage, including a number of valuable dogs and beautiful birds belonging to the archduchess at the hotel.

A day or two ago the proprietor of the hotel received a check from Vienna in settlement of all claims, and he then forwarded all the archduchess' belongings to her home.